



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Lindsay Mosher

(202) 414-0788

lmosher@susandavis.com

## **America Supports You Freedom Walks Over 220 Strong in Cities Around the Globe**

Washington, D.C.— As the world approaches the sixth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, people around the globe will commemorate the victims of that day and honor veterans, past and present, through America Supports You Freedom Walks.

The National America Supports You Freedom Walk will take place on September 9, 2007, in Washington, D.C., starting at 9 a.m. Twenty-two America Supports You home-front groups will travel from across the country to join thousands of Washington, D.C.-area residents walking from the Lincoln Memorial to the future home of the Pentagon Memorial, near the crash site at the Pentagon. The Military District of Washington, D.C., and the Pennsylvania National Guard will provide the color guard, the Harlem Gospel Choir and the Jazz Ambassadors of the United States Army Field Band will perform a concluding tribute, and the emcee will be Kelly Wright, co-host of *Fox and Friends Weekend*.

Since the first National Walk began, its popularity and importance have continued to grow. What began as one walk in Washington, in 2005, developed into 130 walks worldwide in 2006. This year, that number has increased to over 220 across the United States, as well as in Canada, Guam, Iraq, Italy, Korea, Kuwait, Japan, South Korea and Spain. Beginning Saturday, September 8 through Tuesday, September 11, many America Supports You home-front groups are also organizing local walks across the country, along with schools, citizen groups, veteran and military organizations, businesses, cities and individual citizens.

America Supports You home-front groups participating in the National Freedom Walk will include Bob Woodruff's Family Fund, Homes for Our Troops, and Soldier's Angels, which provide support to wounded military men and women; Adopt a Platoon, Hugs from Home, and Packed with Pride, which send letters and care packages to troops serving overseas; and Little Patriots Embraced, ThanksUSA, and Our Military Kids, which provide assistance for military families, especially children, while their loved ones are serving abroad.

Stateside, from Freedom, Wis. to Lincoln, Ala., every Freedom Walk has a special story. In Baton Rouge, La., Dani Lamona is organizing a Freedom Walk to honor the memory of her brother Scott, a member of the U.S. Navy who died at the Pentagon. In Sebring, Ohio, 10-year-old Colton Lockner is organizing a walk for the second year and has enlisted the winner of the Nashville Star competition, 13-year-old Jesse Galchick, to perform. In Paramus, N.J., 12-year old Joey Rizzolo, a volunteer with Operation Goody



Bag, is organizing the walk. He has also written a children's book on how to organize an America Supports You Freedom Walk, and has successfully petitioned the Board of Education for September 11 to be a homework-free night for the entire school district.

In Bowling Green, Ohio, the events of 9/11 inspired the town's walk coordinator and longtime National Guardsman, Chris McKinney, to find his way to the Pentagon, where he helped with rescue efforts. On September 8, McKinney will host a walk with the Bowling Green AM Rotary Club and the VFW American Legion.

In Zachary, La., Zachary Elementary School is planning a walk even as its principal is deployed overseas. In Colorado Springs, the Beacon of Hope Outreach Center is organizing its second annual America Supports You Freedom Walk at the Fort Carson Army Post. Participants will include Cheryl McGuiness, wife of Tom McGuiness, the pilot of American Airlines Flight 11 that hit one of the World Trade Center towers; author, radio host and comedian, Ken Davis; and best-selling author, Stephan Mansfield. Country singers Aaron Lines, Tammy Cochran, and the Kory Brunson Band will perform.

America Supports You, a nationwide program launched by the Department of Defense, recognizes citizens' support for our military men and women and their families, and communicates that support to members of our armed forces at home and abroad.

*Attached is the list of communities planning 2007 local Freedom Walks. To arrange an interview with an America Supports You Freedom Walk spokesperson, or for more information about the National Freedom Walk, please contact Lindsay Mosher at (202) 414-0788 or [lmosher@susandavis.com](mailto:lmosher@susandavis.com).*